

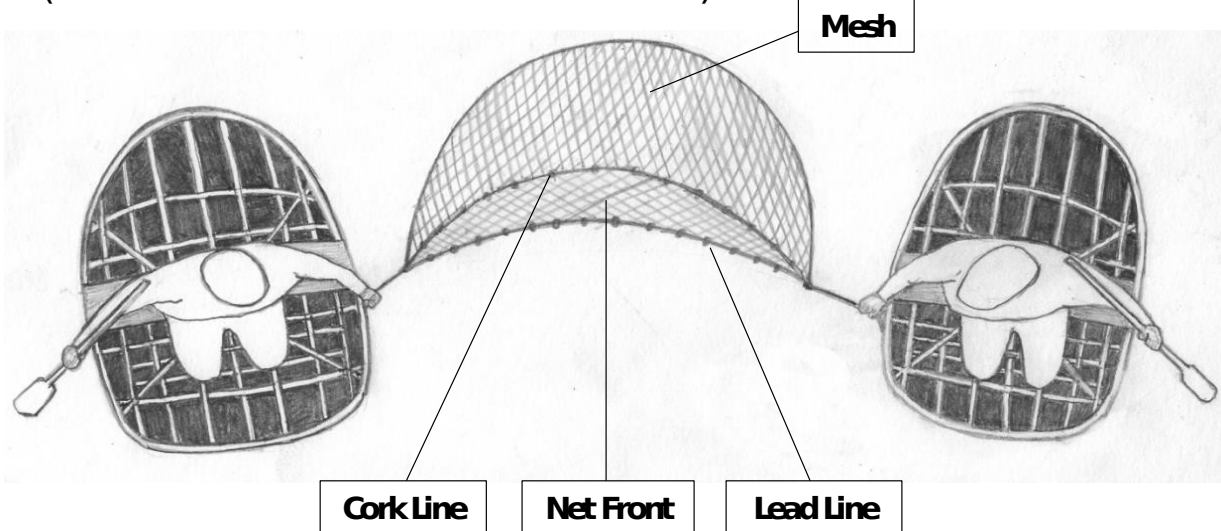
THE CARMARTHEN CORACLE?

Coracle fishing is performed by a pair of coraclers. Fishing is carried out in the darkness of the night when there is little or no moonlight, so the fish don't see the reflection of the nets in the water.



The coracle men meet on the riverbank as dusk approaches carrying their boats on their backs like black baskets in the night.

The net is suspended across the river between the two coracles. They paddle one handed, dragging the net in the other, and draw the net downstream. When a fish is caught, each hauls up an end of the net until the two boats are brought to touch, and the fish is then secured, using a priest (or knocker - a small block of wood) to stun the fish.



The numbers of fish caught are strictly controlled.

Each fish is tagged and can be traced to specific rivers.

Coracle fishing for salmon and sewin (sea trout) is Carmarthen's oldest industry. The coracle is one of the simplest and strangest-looking boats ever designed for use on a river.



Today the season extends from April to July and the license holder can only fish in the night. In 2019 there are only four pairs holding licenses to fish on the Towy.